MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IND.

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A MARVEL SUPER-SPECTACULAR: "the VULTURE'S RETURN!"

THE VULTURE LOOKS TOO SURE OF HIMSELF! HE MUST HAVE A FOOL-PROOF PLAN TO DEFEAT ME! BUT--WHAT CAN IT *BE?*

HERE IS SPIDER-MAN AS YOU LIKE HIM... *FIGHTING! JOKING! DARING!* CHALLENGING THE MOST DANGEROUS FOE OF ALL, IN THIS-- *THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!*

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SPIDER-MAN

THE RETURN OF THE VULTURE

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NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP DOESN'T RESPOND TO THE WISHES OF ITS READERS!

EVER SINCE THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF ***THE VULTURE*** (IN SPIDER-MAN#2) WE'VE BEEN SWAMPED WITH REQUESTS FOR MORE OF THE SAME!

WELL, WE CAN TAKE A HINT! AND SO, WE NOW PRESENT ***THE VULTURE,*** AS YOU DEMANDED HIM... IN A BOOK-LENGTH BATTLE WITH THE ONE, THE ONLY, THE AMAZING... ***SPIDER-MAN!***

A TALE DESTINED TO RANK AMONG THE VERY GREATEST IN THIS...

THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!

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FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MISSED ***SPIDER-MAN #2,*** IT CONCERNED HIS SPECTACULAR BATTLE WITH ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS VILLAINS OF ALL TIME... THE AWESOME FLYING ***VULTURE!*** NO MAN KNEW THE SECRET BEHIND THE VULTURE'S ABILITY TO FLY... UNTIL SPIDER-MAN DEDUCED THAT HIS WINGS WERE OPERATED BY A UNIQUE FORM OF ***MAGNETIC POWER...***

...AND SO, SPIDER-MAN CREATED A POWERFUL ***ANTI-MAGNETIC INVERTER*** WHICH HE USED AGAINST THE VULTURE IN THEIR FINAL BATTLE...

WITH HIS MAGNETIC POWER NULLIFIED, DUE TO ***SPIDER-MAN'S*** INVERTER, THE VULTURE WAS FORCED TO SPIRAL TO THE GROUND, INTO THE WAITING ARMS OF THE POLICE! AND SO ENDED THAT EPIC BATTLE!

THE VULTURE WILL NEVER THREATEN ANYONE AGAIN!

FOR MONTHS IT SEEMS THAT SPIDER-MAN'S PREDICTION IS CORRECT, AS THE IMPRISONED VULTURE BECOMES A MODEL INMATE OF STATE PRISON...

THE VULTURE IS THE BEST BEHAVED PRISONER IN THE PLACE!

THAT'S WHY THE WARDEN MADE HIM A TRUSTEE AND LETS HIM USE THE MACHINE SHOP!

THE GULLIBLE FOOLS! THEY DON'T SUSPECT THAT I'M PUTTING TOGETHER ***ANOTHER*** FLYING DEVICE FOR MYSELF--RIGHT UNDER THEIR NOSES!

I'VE TAKEN ALL THE PARTS I NEED! TONIGHT I'LL MAKE MY FINAL TEST IN MY CELL!

AND, AFTER BED CHECK...

IT WORKS! NOT AS POWERFUL AS MY ***ORIGINAL*** FLYING DEVICE...

...BUT GOOD ENOUGH TO GET ME OVER THE WALL--***TO FREEDOM!***

THE NEXT DAY, DURING EXERCISE PERIOD IN THE PRISON COURTYARD...

FAREWELL! IT IS TIME FOR ***THE VULTURE*** TO FLY AGAIN!

LOOK! HE MADE HIMSELF A NEW FLYING GIZMO! HE'S GLIDING OVER THE WALL!

HOW EASY IT WAS! BY THE TIME THE GUARDS CAN ORGANIZE A SEARCH PARTY, I'LL BE SAFELY HIDDEN, MILES AWAY!

AND, WHEN NEXT I APPEAR, I'LL HAVE A ***NEW*** SET OF WINGS... FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE!

MEANWHILE, IN THE SCHOOL YARD AT MIDTOWN HIGH, SOME VOLLEY-BALL PRACTICE IS IN PROGRESS...

HERE, BUTTER-FINGERS! THINK YOU CAN TOSS THAT BIG, BAD, HEAVY BALL ALL THE WAY ***BACK*** TO ME?

IF I USED MY ***SPIDER-MAN*** STRENGTH, IT WOULD GO CLEAN ***THROUGH*** YOU, LOUD-MOUTH!

WE INTERRUPT OUR PROGRAM TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL BULLETIN! ***THE VULTURE*** HAS ESCAPED FROM STATE PRISON! ALL CITIZENS ARE URGED TO LOCK THEIR DOORS, AND REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS...

THE VULTURE--ESCAPED!!

SPIDER-MAN IS THE ONE BEST SUITED TO CATCH HIM! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--***FAST!***

I--I DON'T ***FEEL*** VERY WELL! I'LL ASK COACH SMITH IF I MAY BE EXCUSED!

WE MIGHT HAVE ***KNOWN!*** A FAST GAME OF VOLLEY-BALL IS TOO MUCH FOR POOR PUNY PARKER!

JUST MY CRUMMY LUCK! EVERY TIME I HAVE TO TAKE OFF TO CHANGE TO SPIDER-MAN, EVERY-ONE THINKS I'M CHICKENING OUT BECAUSE OF WEAKNESS!

IT'S ***NOT*** TOO MUCH FOR ME, FLASH! I JUST HAVE A--EH, HEADACHE, THAT'S ALL!

STRANGE HOW YOU ALWAYS ***GET*** THOSE "HEADACHES" WHENEVER SOMETHING EXCITING IS GOING ON!

LATER, AT HOME...

THIS DOUBLE IDENTITY JAZZ IS FOR THE ***BIRDS!*** I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE RIBBING AS PETER PARKER! SOONER OR LATER, SOMEONE'S GONNA LOSE A MOUTHFUL OF TEETH!

LET'S SEE... I'D BETTER CHECK ALL MY EQUIPMENT! I'VE GOT MY ANTI-MAGNETIC INVERTER WITH ME... AND MY WEB-SHOOTER IS POSITIONED AND READY FOR ACTION...

MY CAMERA IS IN ITS CASE, LOADED WITH FRESH FILM...

... I REFILLED MY WEB-FLUID CAPSULE--AND ALL DEVICES CHECK OUT... A-OKAY!

THIS WEB-SHOOTER IS THE COOLEST THING I EVER DREAMED UP! I CAN DO ALMOST ***ANYTHING*** WITH IT! THE VULTURE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE!

I HAD TO WAIT ALMOST TWENTY MINUTES... BUT NOW, ACCORDING TO MY SPIDER-SENSE, THE STREET IS EMPTY!

I CAN'T EVER TAKE THE CHANCE OF SOMEONE ***SEEING*** ME LEAVE THE HOUSE IN DAYLIGHT!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

MOMMY! DADDY! I JUST SAW ***SPIDER-MAN*** SWINGING ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS!!

YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS, BOBBY!

WHAT WOULD ***SPIDER-MAN*** BE DOING ***HERE,*** IN A QUIET RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD IN FOREST HILLS?

BUT SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T REMAIN IN ANY ONE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR LONG! WITH DAZZLING SPEED, HE HEADS FOR THE HEART OF THE CITY...

THE VULTURE'S A FOOL! I BEAT HIM ***BEFORE*** WITH MY ANTI-MAGNETIC INVERTER...

DOESN'T HE REALIZE I CAN DO IT ***AGAIN?***

WHILE HOURS LATER, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SPRAWLING METROPOLIS...

NOW TO TRY OUT MY NEW MODIFIED WINGS!

AH! I'VE BEEN SIGHTED BY A POLICE HELICOPTER!

WE'RE IN LUCK! THERE'S THE ***VULTURE!***

GOOD! THIS WILL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO TEST MY GREATER-THAN-EVER FLYING POWER UNDER ACTUAL COMBAT CONDITIONS!

CALLING HEADQUARTERS! HAVE LOCATED VULTURE!

I CAN MANEUVER PERFECTLY! COMPARED TO MY WINGS, THAT WHIRLEYBIRD IS A SLOW, CUMBERSOME, CLUMSY OLD TUB!

THAT CHARACTER CAN TURN ON A DIME!

NO AIRCRAFT CAN CATCH ME! THERE ISN'T A SHIP BUILT THAT CAN DUPLICATE FEATS LIKE THIS!

HMMM! A JEWELRY SHOWROOM! I MIGHT AS WELL PUT THIS VISIT TO SOME GOOD USE!

THE VULTURE! H-HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

THE SAME WAY I SHALL LEAVE... WITH YOUR MOST VALUABLE GEMS! JUST WATCH ME...

HOW EASY THAT WAS! NOTHING CAN STOP A FLYING MAN! I CAN GO ANYWHERE-- DO ANYTHING-- AND ALL OF SPACE IS MY ESCAPE ROUTE!

HELP! I'VE BEEN ROBBED! HELP!

IF I FLY LOW ENOUGH, I CANNOT BE TRACKED BY RADAR! THE POLICE WILL NEVER KNOW WHERE I SHALL STRIKE NEXT!

LOOK! IT'S THE VULTURE!

SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!

LIKE WHAT?

WE CAN'T RISK **SHOOTING** AT HIM! HE'S CLEVER ENOUGH TO FLY OVER THE CROWD! IF A BULLET SHOULD **MISS** HIM, IT MIGHT RICHOCHET AND HIT AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER!

THAT'S WHAT HE'S **COUNTING** ON! HE KNOWS WE WON'T FIRE SO LONG AS HE REMAINS IN THE HEART OF THE CITY!

BUT, IN ALL OF NEW YORK, THERE IS **ONE** PERSON WHO IS CAPABLE OF MEETING THE VULTURE ON HIS OWN TERMS... AND THAT PERSON FINALLY FINDS HIS PREY...

AT LAST! MY SPIDER-SENSE LED ME TO THE VULTURE!

I'VE GOT TO GET CLOSER! MY ANTI-MAGNETIC INVERTER ONLY WORKS AT SHORT RANGE!

SO! WE MEET AGAIN, SPIDER-MAN!

SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT HIS ANTI-MAGNETIC DEVICE, WHICH DEFEATED ME BEFORE, **WILL NOT WORK** THIS TIME!

THEREFORE, HE WILL ALLOW ME TO GET **CLOSE** TO HIM... WHICH IS WHAT I **WANT** TO DO!

HE'S FLYING STRAIGHT TOWARDS ME! **PERFECT!**

THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL ENCOUNTER, YOU YOUNG FOOL!

WHAT A **PICTURE** THIS WILL MAKE! JAMESON OUGHT TO PAY ME A **FORTUNE!**

I'LL SNAP HIM JUST AS MY INVERTER MAKES HIM SPIRAL TO THE GROUND!

NOW!!!

I'M GLAD I BROUGHT MY **CAMERA,** TOO!

IT WORKED! I'M ALMOST DISAPPOINTED! IT WAS TOO EASY!

I'LL PRETEND TO BE FALLING! HE'S SURE TO FOLLOW ME DOWN!

HE'S DESCENDING-- TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR MY NEXT MOVE! OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL REVENGE THIS WILL BE FOR THE VULTURE!

DID I SEE HIM SMILE AS HE STARTED TO FALL?

AW, IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION!

PERFECT! HE CAN'T TRAVEL AS QUICKLY AS I! HE HAS TO DESCEND LEDGE BY LEDGE! AND NOW, WHILE HE'S ON THAT LEDGE ABOVE, HE CAN'T SEE ME!

HE DOESN'T REALIZE I'M SWOOPING UP TO HIM AGAIN!

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS START-ING TO TINGLE! BUT WHY? THE VULTURE MUST BE A PRISONER ON THE GROUND BY NOW! THERE CAN'T BE ANY DANGER HERE!

IF I TIMED IT RIGHT, HE SHOULD BE JUST REACHING THE EDGE OF THE PARAPET...

OHHH!

SURPRISE, SPIDER-MAN! EVEN YOU CANNOT WARD OFF A DOUBLE UPPER-CUT WHILE YOU'RE COMPLETELY OFF-BALANCE!

MOMENTARILY STUNNED BY THE FORCE AND TOTAL UNEXPECTEDNESS OF THE VULTURE'S ATTACK, SPIDER-MAN IS HELPLESS BEFORE HIS POWERFUL FOE'S CONTINUED ONSLAUGHT!

THIS TIME THE VICTORY IS MINE!

LOOK! UP THERE... ABOVE THE ROOFTOPS! IT'S THE VULTURE... BATTLING WITH SPIDER-MAN!

THANK HEAVEN SPIDER-MAN FOUND HIM! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DEFEAT THE VULTURE SINGLE-HANDED!

GUESS AGAIN, LADY! THE VULTURE IS CLOBBERING HIM!

YOU NEVER SUSPECTED I HAD IMPROVED MY WINGS SO THAT THEY COULD CHANGE MAGNETIC POLES INSTANTLY, NULLIFYING YOUR USELESS INVERTER!

SO THAT'S WHY... -OOOF-!

HAPPY LANDINGS, SPIDER-MAN!

GOT TO SHOOT MY MY WEB--FAST-- CATCH ON TO BUILDING--BREAK MY FALL--

MISSED!!

MUST TRY AGAIN! FALLING TOO FAST... TOO FAR...

CAN'T DO IT! IT FELL SHORT! ...NO TIME FOR ANOTHER TRY--!!

GOT TO SPIN AROUND IN AIR-- TO SLOW MY RATE OF DESCENT! MUST BREAK FALL! WILL TAKE ALL MY SPIDER STRENGTH! SPIN... KEEP SPINNING--KEEP-- =OOOF=!!

SPIDER-MAN IS FINISHED! MY REVENGE IS COMPLETE! NOW THE VULTURE IS SUPREME!

LOOK AT THE SHOCKED CROWDS BELOW! THEY SAW WHAT HAPPENED!

NO MAN WILL EVER DARE DEFY ME NOW!

THE VULTURE DEFEATED SPIDER-MAN!

LOOK! HE'S FLYING OFF NOW! LIKE A CONQUERING HERO!

POOR SPIDER-MAN! DESPITE WHAT JAMESON'S EDITORIALS SAID ABOUT HIM, WE COPS ALWAYS FELT HE WAS ON OUR SIDE! HE'LL SURE BE MISSED... WHOEVER HE WAS!

BUT, ALTHOUGH BADLY SHAKEN UP, THE COSTUMED TEEN-AGER IS STILL ALIVE... SAVED BY HIS AMAZING SPIDER STRENGTH!

GOT TO GET UP--CAN'T STAY HERE-- CAN'T LET ANYONE DISCOVER ME--

LUCKY TO BE ALIVE! DIDN'T THINK I'D MAKE IT...

OHH! MY ARM! MUST HAVE LANDED ON IT!

FEELS LIKE IT'S BROKEN!

GUESS I CAN'T COMPLAIN! IT PROBABLY SAVED MY LIFE! IF I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO SPIN AROUND... IF I HAD LANDED ON MY HEAD INSTEAD... ZOWEE!

WEARILY, CAUTIOUSLY, SPIDER-MAN REACHES HIS HOME, AND THEN QUIETLY, ENTERS THRU A REAR WINDOW...

DON'T THINK I BROKE ANY BONES...

THE ARM IS PROBABLY JUST SPRAINED!

BUT *BOY*, DOES IT EVER *HURT*!! WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IT FOR DAYS! WELL, BETTER CHANGE BACK TO PETER PARKER NOW WHILE I STILL *CAN*...

BUT, JUST THEN...

PETER, IS THAT *YOU*? I THOUGHT I *HEARD* SOMEONE IN THERE!

AUNT MAY! CAN'T LET HER FIND ME HERE LIKE THIS! SHE'S OPENING THE DOOR!!

PETER, DEAR--? OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKES! I MUST HAVE BEEN *HEARING* THINGS!

ALTHOUGH, IT'S *STRANGE* THAT HE'S NOT HERE YET! HE *KNOWS* HOW I WORRY WHEN HE COMES HOME LATE! HE'S SUCH A *FRAGILE* BOY...NOT A ROUGHNECK LIKE THAT FLASH THOMPSON!

:WHEW:- *THAT* WAS A CLOSE ONE! IF AUNT MAY EVER SUSPECTED THE TRUTH ABOUT FRAGILE ME--*WOW*!

BOY! IT TOOK ALMOST A HALF HOUR TO CHANGE DUDS! I'M SURE NOT GONNA BREAK ANY SPEED RECORDS WITH THIS *ARM* OF MINE!

NOW TO SLIP OUT AND COME IN THE FRONT DOOR AS PETER PARKER! HOPE AUNT MAY WON'T MAKE A FEDERAL CASE OUT OF MY SPRAINED ARM!

I'VE GOT TO THINK UP A GOOD *EXCUSE* FOR IT!

THAT NIGHT...

PLEASE STOP WORRYING, MRS. PARKER! I **ASSURE** YOU IT'S ONLY A SPRAIN--ALTHOUGH IT **IS** A PAINFUL ONE! YOUR NEPHEW'S ARM WILL BE FINE IN A FEW WEEKS!

A FEW WEEKS! THE VULTURE WON'T **WAIT** THAT LONG!

OH WELL, I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE **VULTURE** WHEN THE TIME COMES! RIGHT **NOW,** MY BIGGEST PROBLEM IS **AUNT MAY!**

YOU'RE **SURE** HE SHOULDN'T GO TO THE **HOSPITAL,** DOCTOR?

POSITIVE, MRS. PARKER!

NOW PROMISE YOU WON'T PLAY THOSE DANGEROUS VOLLEY BALL GAMES IN THE SCHOOL YARD ANY MORE, DEAR!

NOT FOR THE NEXT **WEEK,** AUNT MAY!

NEXT DAY...

I HATED TO LIE TO AUNT MAY, BUT I COULDN'T VERY WELL SAY I HURT MY ARM WHEN I FELL ON A ROOFTOP FIGHTING THE VULTURE! UH OH! LOOK WHO'S **COMING!**

WELL, WELL! WHERE'S YOUR PURPLE HEART MEDAL, PETEY BOY?

HOW'D BIG, BRAVE PETER HURT HIS POOR LITTLE ARM? DID YOU TRY TO TURN TOO MANY HEAVY PAGES AT ONE TIME, BOOKWORM? OR DID YOU DROP A NASTY LITTLE TEST-TUBE ON IT IN THE LAB?

LOOK AT PETER BLUSH! OH, FLASH HONEY, YOU'RE A SCREAM!

BLUSH?? THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE I'M LIVID WITH ANGER! IF I EVER LET GO, I'LL SPLATTER THAT CLOWN ALL OVER THE LANDSCAPE!

MEANTIME, THE VULTURE, BASKING IN HIS TRIUMPH, RELAXES AT HIS OLD HIDEOUT, AN INNOCENT-LOOKING ABANDONED FARM SILO ON STATEN ISLAND, NOT FAR FROM THE HEART OF MANHATTAN!

NO ONE WILL EVER THINK TO LOOK FOR ME **HERE!**

THIS IS THE LIFE! NO MORE SPIDER-MAN TO WORRY ABOUT! NOTHING TO DO BUT PLAN MY NEXT BIG HAUL!

AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT'S GOING TO **BE!**

ONE OF THE BIGGEST PAYROLLS IN NEW YORK IS AT THE OFFICE OF ***J. JONAH JAMESON!*** HE PUBLISHES THE "DAILY BUGLE" AND "NOW" MAGAZINE! HE MUST EMPLOY ***HUNDREDS*** OF WORKERS!

AND ***THAT*** MEANS HUNDREDS OF NICE, FAT, JUICY ***PAY ENVELOPES,*** JUST WAITING FOR THE VULTURE TO FLY IN AND GRAB THEM!

IT'S THE END OF THE WEEK NOW, SO ALL THE DOUGH MUST BE IN THE SAFE, READY FOR PAY DAY! ONLY, IT'S GONNA BE ***MY*** PAY DAY THIS TIME!

AND, AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE, WE FIND YOUNG PETER PARKER, TALKING TO J. JONAH JAMESON'S SECRETARY...

OH, PETER, ***NOBODY*** COULD SPRAIN HIS ARM PLAYING VOLLEY BALL!

WHAT ***REALLY*** HAPPENED?

OKAY, I'LL TELL YOU THE ***TRUTH***...

IT HAPPENED IN THE AIR, WHILE I WAS FIGHTING THE VULTURE FOR DEAR LIFE!

OH, WELL! ASK A SILLY QUESTION

SO LET'S STICK TO THE VOLLEY BALL STORY! OKAY?

MISS BRANT! SEND PARKER IN NOW!

I'LL ***ADMIT*** THAT'S A FINE PICTURE OF THE VULTURE, PARKER, BUT I CAN'T PAY MORE THAN TEN DOLLARS FOR IT! AFTER ALL, HE'S BEEN SEEN ALL OVER TOWN! ***LOTS*** OF PEOPLE HAVE SNAPPED HIM! I WANT SOMETHING ***DIFFERENT!***

AW, COME ON, MR. JAMESON! ***NOBODY'S*** TAKEN A CLOSE-UP LIKE ***THIS*** BEFORE!

WELL... ALRIGHT! I'LL PAY TWELVE-FIFTY!

BETTER ***SAVE*** YOUR DOUGH, SUCKER! YOU'RE GONNA ***NEED*** IT!

GREETINGS, JAMESON! IF YOU'LL PAY FOR A MERE ***PHOTO*** OF ME, WHAT WILL YOU GIVE FOR THE VULTURE IN THE ***FLESH?!?!***

HOLY COW! IT'S ***HIM!***

THE ***VULTURE!!***

I TELL YOU WHAT... I'LL SET THE PRICE MYSELF! SO, OPEN YOUR SAFE AND EMPTY IT OUT FOR ME!

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T ROB MY PAYROLL! YOU MUSTN'T! IT'S ALL I'VE GOT! IT WOULD PUT ME OUT OF BUSINESS!

SHUT UP! I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR TROUBLES! NOW DO AS I SAY... OR ELSE!

AND STOP BLUBBERING LIKE A COWARD!

HAVE YOU NO CONSCIENCE? NO FEELINGS? Y-YOU'RE AS BAD AS SPIDER-MAN!

BITE YOUR TONGUE, J.J.!

I'VE SPENT YEARS BUILDING UP THIS BUSINESS... IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME! YOU CAN'T...

OH, CAN'T I?? THE VULTURE CAN DO ANYTHING... AS YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN!!

JAMESON IS SUCH A SKINFLINT, HE'D PROBABLY RATHER GET SHOT THAN PART WITH HIS DOUGH! I'LL HAVE TO SLIP OUT NOW AND TRY TO SAVE HIM--WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR NOT!

LOOK--MAYBE WE CAN MAKE A DEAL? I CAN GIVE YOU PUBLICITY...

ALL I WANT IS MONEY, MISTER!! YOUR MONEY!

WHERE GREENBACKS ARE CONCERNED, JAMESON CAN OUT-TALK ANYBODY! =OWW= IT'S SOME JOB PUTTING MY COSTUME ON WITH THIS BLAMED ARM OF MINE!

I'LL TRY TO ALTER MY WEBBING SLIGHTLY SO IT'LL ACT LIKE A SLING! WITH LUCK, NO ONE WILL NOTICE!

I OUGHT TO HAVE MY HEAD EXAMINED FOR TACKLING THE VULTURE WITH A BAD ARM... BUT THIS'LL SURE MAKE ME SEEM HEROIC... WHEN THEY WRITE MY OBITUARY!

ALL RIGHT, VULTURE--PLAYTIME IS OVER! HERE'S WHERE WE SEPARATE THE MEN FROM THE BOYS!

SPIDER-MAN!!

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE??!!

WELL, YOU WON'T STAY THAT WAY FOR LONG! EVEN YOU CAN BE STOPPED BY A BULLET!

MAYBE SO! BUT FIRST YOU'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO FIRE THE BULLET!

THWUP!

BAH! GUNS AREN'T MY STYLE, ANYWAY! WHAT DOES THE MIGHTY VULTURE NEED A WEAPON FOR! I'VE GOT MY WINGS!

YOU'LL HAVE A HARP, TOO, BY THE TIME I GET THROUGH WITH YOU!

OWW!

HE'S USING JAMESON AS A SHIELD! I CAN'T LET GO WITH A GOOD PUNCH!

OOF!!

SPIDER-MAN! LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL! I'LL BE HURT! LET ME GO!

THAT STOPPED HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO BREAK OUT OF THERE!

I CAN'T FIGHT AS WELL AT CLOSE QUARTERS! I NEED ROOM--SPACE TO USE MY WINGS TO THEIR BEST ADVANTAGE!

WHA--WHAT'S GOING ON??

YOU STAY HERE, JAMESON! FROM NOW ON, IT'S A PRIVATE BATTLE BETWEEN THE VULTURE AND ME!

NO! NO! YOU TWO WILL WRECK THE PLACE! LET HIM GO! LEAVE HIM TO THE POLICE!

THERE ISN'T TIME! IF HE GETS A CHANCE TO FLY OFF, WE MAY NEVER TRAP HIM AGAIN!

OOP! GET TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, GAL!

THIS MUST ALL BE A BAD DREAM!

POLICE! SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE! THOSE TWO MANIACS MUST BE STOPPED!

MISS BRANT! WHERE IN BLAZES ARE YOU??!

H-HERE, MISTER JAMESON... WHERE IT'S SAFE!

HE'S TRYING TO FIND A WINDOW HE CAN FLY THROUGH! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!

I WARN YOU, SPIDER-MAN! STAY OUT OF MY WAY, WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

MISTER, I THRIVE ON WARNINGS! IN FACT, SOME DAY I'M GOING TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE READERS' DIGEST TITLED: "THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE WARNING I'VE EVER KNOWN!"

VER-RY FUNNY!!

GET DOWN FROM THERE!

HAH! YOU MISSED BY A MILE!

MY LEDGERS! MY FILES!! LOOK WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

AW, GO SLIDE DOWN A BARBED-WIRE FENCE!

CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE WINDOW UP THERE! I'LL TRY A LOWER FLOOR! SPIDER-MAN CAN NEVER DEFEAT ME!

IF I EVER CATCH THAT MASKED MENACE, I'LL SUE HIM FOR ALL HE'S WORTH! I'LL PUT HIM IN JAIL FOR LIFE! I'LL-- I'LL MAKE HIM PAY FOR THIS!!

THIS ISN'T EXACTLY *FLYING*... BUT IT'LL SERVE MY PURPOSE!

WHO'S CHASING WHO?

THE PLACE IS *HAUNTED!*

THIS IS MORE *LIKE* IT! I'M IN THE *PRESS ROOM!* I'VE ENOUGH *FLYING SPACE* AGAIN! I'LL DESTROY SPIDER-MAN *FOREVER* NOW, IF HE'S FOOL ENOUGH TO FOLLOW ME HERE!

I HAD A *HUNCH* THE VULTURE WOULD LAND DOWN HERE!

THE ODDS ARE ALL IN *HIS* FAVOR NOW... BUT THAT NEVER STOPPED ME *BEFORE!*

HE DOESN'T *SEE* ME YET... SO HERE GOES *NOTHING!*

HEY!! WHA--??

IT'S *YOU* AGAIN!!

WELL, IT SURE ISN'T THE LONE RANGER!

DIDN'T *EXPECT* ME SO SOON, DID YOU?

YOU JUST MADE YOUR LAST FATAL MISTAKE, SPIDER-MAN!!

I'LL SHAKE YOU OFF LIKE A DOG SHAKES A FLEA!

I THINK YOUR *MODESTY* IS WHAT I LIKE BEST ABOUT YOU!

LET'S SEE IF A *WISE-CRACK* WILL HELP YOU ONCE YOU'RE FALLING INTO THOSE BIG PRESS ROLLERS!

I'VE GOT TO *KEEP* RIB-BING HIM! MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO MAKE HIM SO ANGRY THAT HE WON'T NOTICE MY INJURED ARM!

SUDDENLY, THE AGILE VULTURE CHANGES DIRECTION, AND ZOOMS UP TO THE CEILING WITH TELLING EFFECT...

WHAM!

OHHH!! MY ARM!!

PAIN IS TOO GREAT!! C-CAN'T HOLD ON!!

HAH! I CAUGHT YOU OFF-GUARD!

IF I HIT THOSE GIANT ROLLERS, I'M DONE FOR!

MY WEB *HAS* TO SAVE ME NOW... *THIS* TIME THERE'LL BE NO SECOND CHANCE!

MADE IT! NOW TO DESCEND SLOWLY, AND... OH *NO!* THE VULTURE IS CUTTING MY LIFE-SAVING STRAND!!

I HAD A *HUNCH* YOU'D TRY THAT, SPIDER-MAN!

BUT, WHILE DANGLING ABOVE, THE COLORFUL TEEN-AGER HAS TIME ENOUGH TO ESTIMATE THE DISTANCE... AND, WITH ONE MIGHTY LEAP...

WHEW! *THAT* WAS A CLOSE ONE!

GOT TO REACH THE VULTURE BEFORE HE FLIES OUT OF RANGE!!

BUT *HOW* ??!

UH OH! MY SPIDER SENSE WARNS ME HE'S WAITING ABOVE! IT'S A *TRAP!*

BUT I'LL *LET* HIM SPRING IT!

HAH! YOU BLUNDERED RIGHT INTO MY TRAP... AS I KNEW YOU WOULD!

WELL, MERCY ME!

I'LL TAKE YOU UP SO HIGH THAT YOU'LL BE COMPLETELY HELPLESS! EVEN A SPIDER IS POWERLESS IN THE SKY!

ARE YOU SURE YOU WERE NEVER VACCINATED WITH A PHONOGRAPH NEEDLE?

YOUR FLIPPANCY IS WASTED ON ME, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE JUST WHISTLING IN THE DARK! I KNOW AN ICY FEAR MUST BE GRIPPING YOUR HEART RIGHT NOW!

WELL, I'LL ADMIT I'VE HAD HAPPIER MOMENTS!

BEFORE I DROP YOU, SPIDER-MAN, I WANT TO SAY I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE! ANYONE ELSE WOULD BE BEGGING FOR MERCY NOW! I'M ALMOST SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS...

YEAH! I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE ALL BROKEN UP!

WELL, I'M GONNA TELL YOU A SECRET... THIS LITTLE PARTY ISN'T OVER YET! WATCH...!

YOU--YOU PINNED MY WINGS WITH YOUR WEB!! YOU FOOL! IF I CANNOT FLY... WE BOTH WILL PERISH!

WELL, WHO WANTS TO LIVE FOREVER?!

I DON'T **WANT** TO DIE! **SAVE ME!** -SOB- **DO** SOMETHING! **PLEASE--PLEASE! SAVE ME!**

I **CAN'T!** I'M TOO BUSY ADMIRING YOUR TIGHT-LIPPED **COURAGE!**

WELL, **ANYTHING** TO STOP YOUR MOANING! SUPPOSE I SPIN A LITTLE **WEB** WHILE WE FALL--?!

AT A TIME LIKE **THIS ??!**

SURE! IT MIGHT BE **FUN!** 'SPECIALLY IF I MAKE IT WITH MY NEW SEMI-SOLID FLUID WHICH ENABLES IT TO ACT LIKE A **PARACHUTE!**

LOOK! IN THE SKY! A GIANT **PARACHUTE!**

THERE ARE **TWO FIGURES** DANGLING FROM IT!!

WHO **ARE** THEY??

CAN'T TELL! TOO HIGH UP! WAIT--THEY'RE GETTING **CLOSER!** I- I CAN MAKE A OUT A **COSTUME--!**

IT'S **SPIDER-MAN!** AND THE **VULTURE!**

SPIDER-MAN'S BEATEN HIM!

BY SOME MIRACLE, **SPIDER-MAN WON!**

YOU HAD THIS PLAN IN MIND ALL THE TIME!!

DARN **RIGHT** I DID, CURLY! I DON'T DEPEND ON MY **WINGS** TO DO MY THINKING FOR ME, LIKE **SOME** GUY I COULD MENTION!

WELL, PLAYMATE, THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF! I'LL LET YOU **SOLO** THE REST OF THE WAY DOWN!

IF YOU ENJOY IT, IT COULD MAKE A GREAT **HOBBY!**

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE **LAST** OF ME, SPIDER-MAN!

YOU MEAN YOU'RE GONNA FLAP YOUR LIPS TILL THE BITTER END?

SPIDER-MAN! WAIT!!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T LAUGHING-BOY JAMESON! HE PROBABLY WANTS TO APOLOGIZE AND OFFER ME A BIG REWARD!

AND WHO AM I TO REFUSE?

YES, MR. JAMESON?

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE DAMAGE DONE TO MY BUILDING! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT FOR BUTTING IN!

SAY, WHAT ARE YOU? A PROFESSIONAL NUT?

I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S A NUT! SOONER OR LATER I'LL LEARN WHO YOU REALLY ARE! AND WHEN I DO...

YEAH? THEN WHAT?

--I'LL GET WHAT'S COMING TO ME! IN SPADES!

MISTER, I'M ABOUT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING RIGHT NOW THAT'S BEEN COMING TO YOU FOR MONTHS!

NO! NO! YOU-YOU WOULDN'T DARE!! DON'T--!

WHY NOT? WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE? YOU COULDN'T HATE ME ANY MORE THAN YOU DO NOW!

THWUP!

BUT, ANYHOW, I WON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU FOR A WHILE! THAT WON'T WEAR OFF FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR!

MMPFF! GLBBFF! PHHMF!

MINUTES LATER, A SILENT FIGURE NOISELESSLY ENTERS THE BUILDING IN HIS OWN INIMITABLE MANNER...

SO FAR, SO GOOD! THE COAST IS CLEAR!

HOPE NOBODY FOUND MY CIVVY CLOTHES--

NOPE! THEY'RE JUST WHERE I HID THEM!

AND, WITHIN SECONDS, THE AMAZING ***SPIDER-MAN*** VANISHES, TO BE REPLACED BY A SLING-WEARING, INNOCENT-LOOKING PETER PARKER!

THE WORST THING ABOUT BEING SPIDER-MAN IS ***CHANGING CLOTHES*** A ZILLION TIMES A DAY!

OH WELL... IT KEEPS ME OUT OF THE POOL ROOM!

HI, BETTY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING BEHIND THAT ***DESK?***

IT'S THE ONLY SAFE PLACE, PETER! THIS OFFICE WAS A ***MADHOUSE*** A FEW MINUTES AGO!

MIND IF I ***JOIN*** YOU?

BE MY GUEST!

BY THE WAY, WHERE WERE ***YOU*** WHILE SPIDER-MAN WAS BATTLING THE VULTURE?

ME? OH... I WAS HIDING IN A ***CLOSET!***

I'M AFRAID I'M JUST NOT THE HEROIC TYPE!

NEITHER AM ***I!*** MAYBE THAT'S WHY I ***LIKE*** YOU SO MUCH, PETER! AT LEAST, YOU DON'T PRETEND TO BE WHAT YOU'RE NOT!

BOY! IF SHE ONLY ***KNEW!!***

!!MMPPFF!!! GRRMMPFF!! ★!!!!?!

LOOK! MISTER JAMESON CAN'T TALK! I WONDER WHAT'S ***WRONG*** WITH HIM?

WRONG? IT'S AN ***IMPROVE-MENT!***

PETER, SOMETIMES I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU'RE LAUGHING AT A SECRET LITTLE JOKE THAT'S ALL YOUR OWN!

IF YOU KEEP USING THAT COOL ***PERFUME,*** BETTY, I MAY BREAK DOWN AND ***TELL*** YOU ABOUT IT SOME DAY!

PETER PARKER! THAT'S THE CLOSEST THING TO A ROMANTIC REMARK I'VE EVER HEARD YOU SAY!

GOSH, I CAN BE ***MORE*** ROMANTIC THAN ***THAT!*** HERE, REST YOUR HEAD ON MY SHOULDER, BLUE EYES, AND LET'S ENJOY THE SILENCE!

BUT WHAT WILL ***MR. JAMESON*** SAY?

NOTHING, BABY...FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR!

the END

WE ADMIT IT! THIS ISN'T A TYPICAL ENDING FOR A TYPICAL SUPER-HERO TALE! BUT, WE'VE NEVER CLAIMED THAT SPIDER-MAN WAS A TYPICAL SUPER-HERO! IN FACT, ***NEXT*** ISSUE, HE DOES SOME ***VERY*** UNTYPICAL THINGS! BUT, SEE FOR YOURSELF WHEN WE MEET AGAIN!

SPIDER'S WEB

Please address your letters to:
THE SPIDER'S WEB
Third Floor
655 Madison Ave.
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Stan and Steve,

"Nothing Can Stop the Sandman" was more than a well-written, well-drawn story of a battle between a super-hero and a super-villain. It was, in my humble opinion, the most reasonable account ever written of a day in the life of a super-hero. His problems, his triumphs, and his thoughts were all covered thoroughly in your story. Although Peter Parker's bizarre costume makes him appear bigger than life (which after all is its purpose beside hiding his identity), this story carefully painted a picture of a teenager with super abilities wondering if they are really a gift. Other episodes like his problems with the torn mask, J. J. Jameson's hate for him, and his girl troubles all made for the best portrait of a super-hero's life ever written. I could hardly help feeling I actually knew Spider-Man personally. Of course, Sandman was an ingenious villain. His simple powers were just perfect and proved a match for Spider-Man. Continue Spider-Man in his present vein and he will run till, as you say, "Peter Parker picks a peck of pickled peppers."

Joe Finley
Route 4
Sparta, Tenn.

Didn't anyone ever tell you, Joe—if you can't say something NICE about a fella, don't say anything! But seriously, if we're half as good as you imply, then we're twice as pleased as you!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I think Peter Parker should have a girl friend who sticks up for him when he's being bullied; and I don't mean some chick who's homely, wears specs and a sack dress, with black-and-white saddle shoes, or is as science-minded as he is. I mean a doll with a good figure, get-up-and-go, who digs jazz and rock-and-roll. You follow me?

Sidney Wright
Worcester, Mass.

No, Sid, but we'd sure follow HER!

Dear Stan and Steve,

May I congratulate you (or should it be thank you) for the tremendous quality of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Originally, (meaning AMAZING FANTASY #15) he was a run-of-the-mill deadbeat, typical of the baleful boredom which sometimes prevailed in your comics. The Ditko art, pitifully primitive, lacked imagination, and made one believe that Steve was a doting, senile old codger who you kept on your staff because you didn't have the heart to fire him. But no longer! The plots now ring with originality, and the villains are as vibrant as life. And Ditko — now I picture him as a lively, eager 25 year old! His SPIDER-MAN is one of the best heroes today. No longer does Steve have the same ol' faces in each story gazing toward the rest of an empty panel. He's helped most of all to bring the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN right up to the top of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP — some people now put him over the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR (folks in fandom that is) and the brilliant SGT. FURY! And it's not the same old Stan Lee either — whose claims of "We're superior! We're different! We're the best! We're too great for words!" were trying to promote his own work (sort of like most of your competitors). I don't know if their stuff has deteriorated or whether you have improved that much, but the competition now seems like echh! Each person in the plot(s) is a complete world, down to the bow tie and personality. Wow — now that I've cleared my head, I know what I should have said at the beginning — may I thank you for the tremendous quality of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

Paul Gambaccini
8 Elizabeth Drive
Westport, Conn.

We appreciate your praise, Paul, but feel we must pause for a serious word to you, and all of fandom. We don't feel it's fair for you to knock any other group of magazines while boosting ours. After all, it's just a matter of taste—and there are probably many fans who prefer our competitors' mags to ours. There are many fine talents producing well-written and well-drawn stories at other houses beside MARVEL. While we admit we try to create the greatest comics possible, we feel it isn't proper to comment about mags other than our own on these pages. Okay?

Dear Stan and Steve,

I just got issue #4 of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, and it is the greatest of all the Spider-Man issues. Sandman is the best villain he has ever fought. I think the word "Amazing" should be left on the title of the comic, for I think it is a part of the title, and Spider-Man *is* amazing. I would like to see Spider-Man talking with the spiders like the Ant-Man does with ants, and the Wasp does with the wasps.

Larry Rothenberger
906 Jackson St.
Wausau, Wisconsin

And we suppose you'd like to see IRON MAN talking with pieces of IRON? Oh well, as usual, we'll wait for the comments from our fans out there in mag-land!

SPIDER SCRATCHINGS:

(Due to lack of space, we can't print these letters in their entirety, but we try to include as many interesting comments as we can.)

"You ought to have Spider-Man in the army or navy helping them."—Zane Smith, Carthage, Mo. . . . "Your July issue of *Spider-Man* was so good that I had to write or explode." —Marshall Barroll, Chestertown, Md. . . . "The F.F. will be sorry they turned down Spider-Man when he wanted to join up!"—Herbie Clayburn, Jr., N. Y. C., N. Y. . . . "Dr. Octopus has just got to make a comeback."—Leonard Tirado, Brooklyn, N. Y. . . . "Keep the public wary of Spider-Man, and keep him a 'loner'"—DannyDeVere, Haskell, N. J. . . . "I think Spider-Man should have a super partner to help him out even if he doesn't need help." —Robert Dwyer, Marlboro, Mass. . . . "We found a clubhouse for our *Spider-Man Club,* and it's full of spiders! Would you give us a good name for our clubhouse?" —Ricky Gil, Los Angeles, Cal. (Ed. note: How about the SPIDER-MANsion?) . . . "Until I ran across your Spider-Man I would not even go near a comic for fear of somebody ribbing me, but this book opens up an entirely new field in comic history."—Mike Roese, Fort Wayne, Ind. . . . "I'd like to see Spider-Man and the Torch come together again."—Michael Bissonnette, Chicopee Falls, Mass.

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CONTINUED . . .

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN is improving as I knew he would have to after seeing how the F.F. improved. Thanks for making it monthly. I like the way you answer the letters — you don't beat around the bush, but get straight to the point. What's even more important, you speak our language and remember to say "thanks" which is something rarely done in the letters section of a comic.

Christine Cassello
8017 S. Muskegon
Chicago 17, Ill.

Yep, that's ONE thing you can say about us, Chris—our mags may be riddled with errors, our fans may be deserting us in droves, Stan and Steve may be running out of ideas, but one thing is for sure—we're polite! Nice of you to notice, gal—thanks.

Dear Stan and Steve,

I read the story about Dr. Octopus in SPIDER-MAN and it was great. Now in the part where Spider-Man says, "It's almost too easy. I've run out of enemies who can give me any real opposition.". . . that certainly isn't true. Every issue gives him a very powerful foe to fight. (Except for that, the whole thing was perfect.) When Spider-Man sees Dr. Octopus, the arms are coming out of his suit. Did the arms become a part of him, or were they just covered up? I liked the appearance of the Human Torch. No matter what anybody else says about it, he spoke the greatest words I have ever heard. I think Spider-Man is a great, great hero, and I'd like to see him printed for another trillion years.

Franz Wright
132 Douglass St.
San Francisco 14, Cal.

So would WE, Franz, but let's be practical . . . we might have to settle for just a million or two! About Doc Ock's arms, to all intents and purposes they ARE part of him now.

Dear Stan and Steve,

It is my opinion that SPIDER-MAN #2 was the finest all-around comic magazine I've read in the past three or four years. For overall excellence it simply couldn't be matched. The artwork was truly superb, the finest Ditko art I've seen anywhere. The gothic settings (perhaps I should say semi-gothic) were ideally suited, since Spider-Man himself is something of a weird story hero, and should feel right at home in such a backround. The stories were also extremely good, on all counts. #2 was a great surprise to me after reading the sorry mess you had created in #1, and I was all set to wave flags and blare out the news with brass bands when issue # 3 hit the stands. However, I was disappointed. Maybe you people just work in short tremendous creative spurts or something, but I found #3 a great letdown. The story itself was good, better than most comic stories these days, but the art . . . Ditko plunged from one extreme to another. The art in #3 looked as though he had done it with a rat's tail, blindfolded perhaps. The misshapen figures and the appalling lack of anything resembling passable detail leads me to believe he must have done the whole comic in a mad rush. I certainly hope you will bring Spider-Man back up to the pinnacle of excellence you established for him with issue #2. He's such a unique and truly great character, he deserves only your best attentions.

Bob Jennings
3819 Chambers Drive
Nashville 11, Tenn.

Admit it, Bob—how much did THE HUMAN TORCH pay you to write that letter? You know we don't draw with rats' tails—they're too expensive! We use our fingernails, like everyone else!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

Here it is, the section we like best! A place for us to get together, relax a while, and chew the fat about comic mags. First of all, let's start with an interesting announcement about one of SPIDER-MAN'S ex-villains...

- **Remember the SANDMAN? Well, he made such a hit in SPIDERMAN #4 that we brought him back in another Marvel mag! And so, you'll find ol' Sandy in STRANGE TALES #115, fighting the HUMAN TORCH! It should be fun to see how Torchy fares against one of Pete Parker's most dangerous waltzing partners! STRANGE TALES #15 is on sale now—we think!)**

- **Earth-shaking bulletin #2: Ask us who the guest star is in FANTASTIC FOUR #21! Go on, ASK us! Well, it's SGT. FURY! And if you're wondering how we managed to fit HIM into a story involving a different kind of super-villain with a totally different kind of super-power, there's one way to find out—and you know what THAT is!**

- **We've got so much to talk about, we don't know where to begin! It looks as though our two new mags, X-MEN and THE AVENGERS are destined to be runaway best-sellers! And there's been a lot of talk about DR. STRANGE (In STRANGE TALES, of course). Those that don't like him really HATE the poor guy—and those who like him are WILD about him! Nobody's neutral! We'll give you the result of the pro-and-con count in a few issues. Meantime, if you haven't seen him yet, he's done by Stan and Steve—'nuff said!**

- **By the way, don't delay in letting us know how you like the big changes in TALES TO ASTONISH and TALES OF SUSPENSE! Ant-Man, as you know, has become GIANT-MAN. And IRON MAN—well, you'll have to SEE what we've done to him! Hope you like it! (That's probably the most unnecessary phrase ever written! If you DON'T like the mags we edit for you, we'll shoot ourselves!)**

- **Here's our most difficult announcement: We want to ask your permission to discontinue this letters section! Now hold on, before you hit the ceiling! We KNOW you enjoy these two pages! WE enjoy 'em, too! But, they take HOURS to put together—to select the letters, write the copy, etc., and we'd rather spend that time producing new strips for you. We feel it would be best to have only one clearing house for all Marvel Mail, and that would be the FANTASTIC FOUR Mag. So, how about it? Suppose all the mail for all the Marvel Mags is sent to FF? That'll give SPIDER-MAN two extra pages for longer stories, features, or what-have you! We'll do nothing till we hear from you, so let us know. But, as a special favor, we hope you'll tell us you don't mind.**

- **Okay, time to close shop for now. So let's put away our little webs till next ish, when we'll bring you another book-length epic which all you armchair critics can tear apart to your heart's content! Till then, keep well, keep happy, and keep away from radioactive spiders!**